

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-101. (Cancelled)

102. (Currently Amended) A contact toaster for toasting bread products comprising:

a heating zone comprising a heating element configured to contact and toast a second face of bread products; and

a first belt configured to move the bread product through the heating zone, the belt comprising,

a reinforcement material having a first face and a second face;

a coating disposed over the first face;

a first plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs raised above the first face of the reinforcement material, the first plurality of ribs being transverse to a longitudinal direction of the first belt and being configured to impart lateral force to objects carried by the first belt; and

a second plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs raised above the second face of the reinforcement material, the second plurality of ribs comprising a plurality of straight ribs transverse to a longitudinal direction of the first belt;

wherein a pattern of the first plurality of ribs is different than a pattern of the second plurality of ribs; and

wherein the first belt is configured to wrap around a second belt such that a plurality of the second plurality of ribs contact the second belt;

wherein the first belt is configured to withstand the temperatures of the heating zone; and

wherein the first belt contacts a first face of bread products.

103. (Cancelled)

104. (Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, ~~wherein the belt is a first belt, and the apparatus further comprises a~~ further comprising the second belt ~~comprising~~ which comprises at least one of a chain belt, wire belt, and metal belt, wherein the first belt is configured to be coupled to the second belt.

105-108. (Cancelled).

109. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein ~~flights~~ ribs raised above one face are straight and parallel to each other ~~and a longitudinal direction of the flights is transverse to a longitudinal direction of the belt,~~ and ribs raised above another face are arranged in a repeating pattern that is at least one of undulating and sinusoidal.

110. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein the first plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs have a density of at least one rib per linear foot of the first belt.

111. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein the first plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs form a pattern of undulating ~~flights~~ ribs.

112-113. (Cancelled)

114. (Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein at least one of the first plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs ~~have~~ has a height of at least about 0.020 inches.

115. (Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein the first belt has a structure that is continuous.

116. (Cancelled)

117. (Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim ~~116~~ 102, wherein the second belt has an open structure.

118. (Previously Presented) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein the apparatus is a vertically oriented toasting machine.

119. (Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein the first belt is configured to move food products through the heating zone such that

food products will slide along a stationary toasting surface such that the food product is toasted as it slides.

120. (Previously Presented) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein the apparatus is configured to toast items in a continuous toasting operation.

121. (Currently Amended) A contact toaster for toasting bread products comprising:

a heating zone comprising a heating element configured to contact and toast a second face of bread products; and

a first belt configured to move the ~~feed~~ bread product through the heating zone, the first belt arranged such that the first belt contacts a first face of bread products, the first belt comprising,

a reinforcement material having a first face and a second face;

~~a coating disposed over the first face~~ a material that is at least one of coated and laminated over the first face of the reinforcement material; and

a first plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs raised above the first face of the reinforcement material, the first plurality of ribs being transverse to a longitudinal direction of the first belt and being configured to impart lateral force to objects carried by the first belt; and

a second plurality of ribs above the second face of the reinforcement material, the second plurality of ribs comprising a plurality of straight ribs transverse to a longitudinal direction of the first belt;

wherein a pattern of the first plurality of ribs is different than a pattern of the second plurality of ribs; and

wherein the first belt is configured to wrap around a second belt such that a plurality of the second plurality of ribs contact the second belt.

122. (Previously Presented) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 121, wherein the apparatus is a vertically oriented toasting machine.

123. (Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 121,

wherein the first belt is configured to move food products through the heating zone such that food products will slide along a stationary toasting surface such that the food product is toasted as it slides.

124. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim ~~121~~ 102, wherein ~~flights~~ ribs raised above one face of the first belt are straight and parallel to each other ~~and a longitudinal direction of the flights is transverse to a longitudinal direction of the belt~~, and ~~flights~~ ribs raised above another face of the belt are arranged in a repeating pattern that is at least one of undulating and sinusoidal.

125-126. (Cancelled)

127. (Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 121, wherein the first plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs have a height of at least about 0.020 inches.

128. (Currently Amended) A contact toaster for toasting bread products comprising:

a toasting surface configured to toast a first face of bread products; and

a first belt configured to be arranged to contact a second face of bread products and move the bread products so that they slide along the toasting surface and toast as they slide, the first belt comprising,

a reinforcement material having a first face and a second face;

~~a coating disposed over the first face~~ a material that is at least one of coated and laminated over the first face of the reinforcement material; and

a first plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs raised above the first face of the reinforcement material, the first plurality of ribs being transverse to a longitudinal direction of the first belt and being configured to impart lateral force to objects carried by the first belt;

a second plurality of ribs above the second face of the reinforcement material, the second plurality of ribs comprising a plurality of straight ribs transverse to a longitudinal direction of the first belt;

wherein a pattern of the first plurality of ribs is different than a pattern of the second plurality of ribs; and

wherein the first belt is configured to wrap around a second belt such that a plurality of the second plurality of ribs contact the second belt.

129. (Cancelled).

130. (Previously Presented) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, wherein the apparatus is a vertically oriented toasting machine.

131. (Previously Presented) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, wherein the apparatus is configured to toast buns.

132. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim ~~129~~ 128, wherein ~~flights~~ ribs raised above one face of the belt are straight and parallel to each other ~~and a longitudinal direction of the flights is transverse to a longitudinal direction of the belt~~, and ~~flights~~ ribs raised above another face of the belt are arranged in a repeating pattern that is at least one of undulating and sinusoidal.

133-134. (Cancelled)

135. (Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, wherein at least one of the first plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs ~~have~~ has a height of at least about 0.020 inches.

136. (Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, wherein the belt further comprises ~~a material that is at least one of coated and laminated over the first face of the reinforcement material~~; a lacing on at least one of a narrow ~~ends~~ end of the belt; and a flap on at least one ~~of a narrow end~~ of the belt.

~~a second plurality of ribs above the second face of the reinforcement material, the second plurality of ribs comprising a plurality of straight ribs transverse to a longitudinal direction of the belt;~~

~~wherein the first plurality of flights comprise a plurality of ribs transverse to a longitudinal direction of the belt that are configured to impart lateral force to objects carried by the belt and a pattern of the first plurality of ribs being different than a pattern of the second plurality of ribs; and~~

~~wherein the first belt is configured to wrap around a second belt such that a plurality~~

~~of the second plurality of ribs contact the second belt.~~

137. (Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, wherein the belt is a first belt, and comprises a second plurality of flights ribs above the second face of the reinforcement material; and further comprising ~~[[a]]~~ the second belt arranged such that the first belt wraps around the second belt, the second face of the first belt facing the second belt.

138. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim ~~137~~ 128, wherein the first plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs are formed from beads having a diameter of about one thirty-second of an inch to about one half of an inch.

139. (Cancelled).

140. (Cancelled)

141. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, wherein the first plurality of ~~flights~~ ribs ~~comprising~~ comprise wavy ribs.

142-144. (Cancelled)

145. (Withdrawn) The contact toaster for bread products of claim 141, wherein the wavy ribs are discontinuous.

146. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) The contact toaster for bread products of claim 141, wherein at least one of the wavy ribs has a height of at least about 0.02 inches ~~and up to about 0.05 inches.~~

147. (Withdrawn) The contact toaster for bread products of claim 141, wherein the contact toaster is a vertically oriented toasting machine.

148. (Withdrawn) The contact toaster for bread products of claim 141, wherein the wavy ribs comprise sinusoidal ribs.

149. (Withdrawn) The contact toaster for bread products of claim 141, wherein the first belt comprises lacings and a flap.

150. (Previously Presented) A contact toaster for bread products comprising:

a heating element configured to toast food products;

a first belt comprising at least one of a link-type belt and a chain belt;

a first rotating sprocket coupled to the first belt and configured to drive the first belt;

and

a second belt configured to move food products, the second belt comprising,

a reinforcement material having a first face and a second face, the reinforcement material comprising at least one of fiberglass, nylon, polyester, aramid, polyethylene, polyolefin, polyimide, and films thereof;

at least one of a silicone rubber, a urethane rubber, and a fluoropolymer above the first face of the reinforcement material;

at least one of a silicone rubber, a urethane rubber, and a fluoropolymer above the second face of the reinforcement material;

a first plurality of ribs above the first face of the reinforcement material; and

a second plurality of ribs above the second face of the reinforcement material;

wherein the contact toaster is arranged such that,

the first rotating sprocket drives the first belt and the first belt drives the second belt;

the second belt is wrapped around the first belt such that the second face of the second belt faces the first belt;

the first face of the second belt contacts a first face of food products and the heating element toasts a second face of food products; and

food products are moved such that food products will slide along a stationary toasting surface and toast as they slide; and

wherein a pattern of the first plurality of ribs of the second belt is different than a pattern of the second plurality of ribs of the second belt.

151. (Withdrawn) The contact toaster for bread products of claim 150, wherein the first plurality of ribs comprise wavy ribs transverse to a longitudinal direction of the second belt.

152. (Withdrawn) The contact toaster for bread products of claim 151, wherein the second plurality of ribs comprise straight ribs transverse to a longitudinal direction of the second belt.

153. (Previously Presented) The contact toaster for bread products of claim 150, wherein the second belt is configured to help retain heat in food products and warm them to serving temperature.

154-170. (Cancelled)

171. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, wherein at least one of the first plurality of ribs and the second plurality of ribs comprise a plurality of ribs spaced apart by about 1.5 inches.

172. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, wherein ribs of the second plurality of ribs are spaced apart differently than ribs of the first plurality of ribs.

173. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, wherein the first belt is configured such that the first belt helps retain heat in buns and warm them to serving temperature.

174. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, wherein the contact toaster is configured such that the first belt can be used to compress a bun against the toasting surface.

175. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 128, further comprising

a third belt, the third belt comprising,

a reinforcement material having a first face and a second face,

a plurality of ribs raised above the first face of the reinforcement material of the third belt, and

at least one rib raised above the second face of the reinforcement material of the third belt;

wherein the contact toaster is configured to be capable of simultaneously toasting a first food product in contact with the first belt and a second food product in contact with a third belt.

176. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein at least one of the first plurality of ribs and the second plurality of ribs comprise a plurality of ribs spaced apart by about 1.5 inches.

177. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein ribs of the second plurality of ribs are spaced apart differently than ribs of the first plurality of ribs.

178. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein the first belt is configured such that the first belt helps retain heat in buns and warm them to serving temperature.

179. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, wherein the contact toaster is configured such that the first belt can be used to compress a bun against the toasting surface.

180. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 102, further comprising

a third belt, the third belt comprising,

a reinforcement material having a first face and a second face,

a plurality of ribs raised above the first face of the reinforcement material of the third belt, and

at least one rib raised above the second face of the reinforcement material of the third belt;

wherein the contact toaster is configured to be capable of simultaneously toasting a first food product in contact with the first belt and a second food product in contact with a third belt.

181. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 121, wherein at least one of the first plurality of ribs and the second plurality of ribs comprise a plurality of ribs spaced apart by about 1.5 inches.

182. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 121, wherein ribs of the second plurality of ribs are spaced apart differently than ribs of the first plurality of ribs.

183. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 121, wherein the first belt is configured such that the first belt helps retain heat in buns and warm them to serving temperature.

184. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 121, wherein the contact toaster is configured such that the first belt can be used to compress a bun against the toasting surface.

185. (New) The contact toaster for toasting bread products of claim 121, further comprising

a third belt, the third belt comprising,

a reinforcement material having a first face and a second face,

a plurality of ribs raised above the first face of the reinforcement material of the third belt, and

at least one rib raised above the second face of the reinforcement material of the third belt;

wherein the contact toaster is configured to be capable of simultaneously toasting a first food product in contact with the first belt and a second food product in contact with a third belt.